

oversight hearing has been scheduled jointly before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health of the House Committee on Resources.

The hearing will take place Thursday, May 15, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the release of the Columbia River Basin Environmental Impact Statement.

Those who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. For further information, please call Judy Brown or Mark Rey at (202) 224-6170.

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FORESTS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a workshop has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management to exchange ideas and suggestions on the proposed "Public Land Management Responsibility and Accountability Restoration Act." The workshop will take place on Thursday, May 22, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The topic for this workshop will be to hear testimony regarding community-based solutions that have been tried concerning public land conflicts.

Testimony at these workshops is by invitation only. They are open to the public and the press. For further information, please write to the Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, or call Mark Rey or Judy Brown of the Subcommittee staff at (202) 224-6170.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 24, 1997, in executive session to mark up S. 7, the National Missile Defense Act of 1997.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on April 24, 1997, at 10 a.m. on ISTE Reauthorization/Truck Safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 12:30 p.m. for a hearing on opportunities for management reforms at the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet for a hearing on Overview of Vocational Education, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until business is completed, to hold a hearing to consider revisions to Title 44.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for an oversight hearing on "SBA's Non-Credit Programs" on Thursday, April 24, 1997, which will begin at 9:30 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct a hearing Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 9:30 a.m., on ozone and particulate matter standards proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 24, 1997, at 2:00 p.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SPACE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Science, Technology and Space Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on April 24, 1997, at 2 p.m. on reauthorization of the FY98 NASA budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MEDICARE

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in 1995, my first year in the U.S. Senate, the Medicare Trustees told Congress that unless it took "prompt effective, and decisive action" Medicare will be dead in seven years."

Two years later, another Trustees' report has been delivered to Congress and we are even worse off. We still face the same tough choices. We must balance the budget, restore integrity to the Medicare trust fund, update the Medicare system and provide consumers with more choice—a cornerstone structural change that addresses the long-term viability of the Medicare program.

In the 104th Congress, the U.S. Congress realized that the fundamental way to capture the dynamics of change in the health care system would be to modernize Medicare by opening it to a broader array of private health plans that would compete on the basis of quality and not just cost.

President Clinton embraced this ideal as well by initiating a Medicare Choices demonstration and including provisions to expand choice, although I feel they are limited, in his February budget submission to the U.S. Congress.

Therefore, Senator ROCKEFELLER and I introduced S. 146, the Provider-Sponsored Organization Act of 1997. S. 146 expands the current Medicare risk contracting program to include PSO's, Provider Sponsored Organizations.

A PSO, very simply, is a public or private provider, or group of affiliated providers, organized to deliver a spectrum of health care services under contract to purchasers.

Our bill specifies detailed requirements for certification, quality assurance and solvency to ensure that PSO's contracting with Medicare meet standards that are comparable to or higher than those for health maintenance organizations [HMO's].

Specifically, the bill provides Federal leadership for States to fashion a streamlined PSO approval process that is consistent with Federal standards protecting Medicare beneficiaries.

Second, by providing incentives for PSO's and HMO's to evaluate patterns of care, it promotes state of the art continuous quality improvement.